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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS, N.V.** [NL/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

(71) Applicant (for AE only): **U.S. PHILIPS CORPORATION** [US/US]; 1251 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **NIEMI, Anne** [FI/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven

(NL). **TANTTU, Jukka** [FI/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL). **YLIHAUTALA, Mika** [FI/NL]; Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

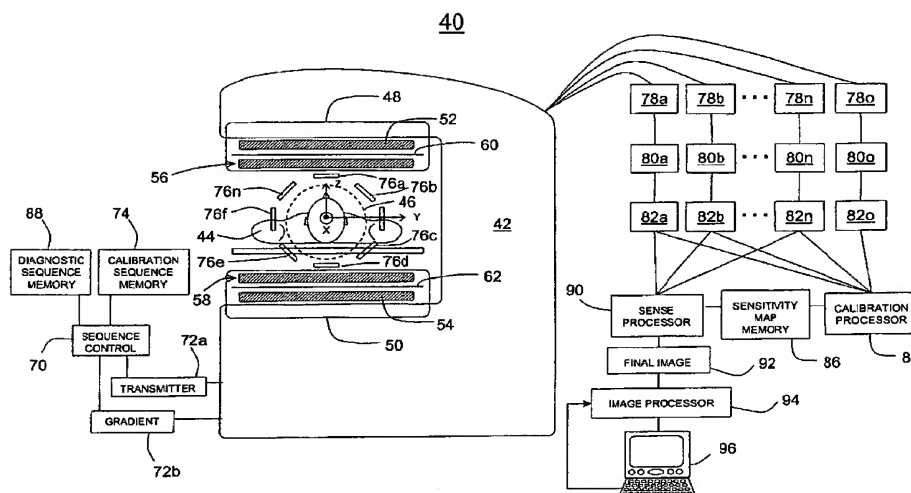
(74) Common Representative: **KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS, N.V.**; c/o LUNDIN, Thomas, M., 595 Miner Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44143 (US).

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(54) Title: COIL SENSITIVITY ESTIMATION FOR PARALLEL IMAGING



(57) Abstract: In a parallel or SENSE imaging technique in an MRI system (40), a calibration scan is conducted to generate a calibration image (86) indicative of sensitivity profiles of parallel imaging coils (76a,...,76n) also in the regions where the magnetic field is distorted. This is accomplished by using a phase refocusing imaging protocol such as a spin echo technique, or by using a gradient echo technique where the echo time is very short. In addition, the phase encode direction of the calibration scan and a diagnostic imaging scan shall be matched. A diagnostic imaging scan is conducted using a diagnostic scan protocol to generate a diagnostic image representation from each parallel imaging coil. A SENSE processor (90) reconstructs a final diagnostic image (92) from the diagnostic image representations and the coil sensitivity profiles.

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